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Courts and the CIA



HOLDEN

The Sunday Times of London has sued the CIA for information it may have about the 1977 murder in Egypt of its chief foreign correspondent, David Shipley Holden. The complaint, filed in U.S. district court in New York yesterday, said that despite the "exceptional urgency" of the investigation into the unsolved murder, the CIA has refused to expedite a Sunday Times request for information initially made 17 months ago. The complaint said the CIA reaction to the initial request for information — made in August 1978 under the Freedom of Information Act — was that it would take at least six months to respond because of a backlog of 2,800 unprocessed cases. . . . A federal appeals court in Washington issued a 24-hour stay yesterday of U.S. District Judge Gerhard Gesell's order requiring the State Department to restore former CIA agent Philip Agee's passport.